Hobart: July 14, 1969

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Mr. Archer added that
ripheral words would be
made to safeguard the
confidential nature of de-
tails supplied.

New girl for "Ned Kelly"

SYDNEY. — Marianne Faithfull has been replaced by a 20-year-old Sydney actress for the part of Maggie Kelly in the film "Ned Kelly."

A talented, pretty Irish girl found herself switched from being a member of the "Swinging London" set to the Hollywood Establishment overnight.

Her condition was satisfactory after she was "making progress." No date had been fixed for her discharge.

Miss Craig came from Belfast with her family 10 years ago.

She says she is "not really a Mick Jagger fan." A friend who was with her when she was told the part had arisen said it was a former WHDA student, Susan Lloyd, who Kris's sister Kate, in the film.

Peace offer scorned

PRESIDENT Thieu of South Vietnam has made an important peace offer to the Communists, and as might have been expected they have scathed it with mockery. Once again the Communists have made their aims transparently clear — outright conquest of the country regardless of the choice of the people.

Thieu's latest offer was particularly significant for its further concessions to Communist demands. He proposed that the Communists should take part in an electoral commission to arrange internationally supervised elections and that Vietnamese could decide their own future. He no longer insisted that Communists would not be able to stand as Communists in an election.

There seems no doubt that the offer was made under US pressure, for the US Secretary of State (Mr Rogers) forecast it a couple of weeks ago. To the Communists it will seem fairly clear that at his Midway meeting with Thieu President Nixon laid American policy "on the line" — America intended to withdraw as quickly as possible, and Thieu must either come to political terms with the Communists or fight the war alone.

For their part the Communists insist that Thieu must go and that there must be a coalition Government to organise elections. In the circumstances it would be unreal to look for any either attitude. They have every reason to feel that the whole country will fall into their hands if they merely wait long enough.

With the aid of their supporters within America they have destroyed one President and have induced a state of mind which is quietly prepared to accept a complete withdrawal of US forces. If there is a current lull in the fighting it is because they do not wish to stir up and change this state of mind in America. Earlier pledges that America would stay in Vietnam until the people were free to make their own choice are no longer operative.

For Thieu the future must appear grim indeed. As he is bound to see it, he is in the process of being abandoned — no matter what euphemism is used — and the capacity of the South Vietnamese army to take over the whole burden of the fight against Communism is extremely doubtful.

Nuclear arms agreement

AUSTRALIA'S doubts about signing the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty seem to be as far as ever from being resolved and a speech by the Minister for National Development (Mr Fairbairn) implies that she is not likely to do so until there is a quite clear understanding and agreement about what is involved.

A treaty guaranteeing protection by the big nuclear powers has obvious attractions for Australia, but it is by no means certain that the guarantees would be as effective in practice as it sounds on paper. Nor does it seem likely to be effective in stopping the spread of nuclear arms. Neither France nor China, both nuclear powers, will sign. India feels she may be forced to go nuclear and so is keeping her options open. Israel's attitude is the same. It is possible that some time Australia, too, may decide it necessary to have her own armoury.

In addition to the military aspects the peaceful uses of nuclear power have to be considered. As the treaty stands, Australia might find that by signing she is signing away vital rights in development and research.

While doubts such as these remain the Government is not only wise not to commit Australia, it has no right to do so.

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New girl for "Ned Kelly"

Peace offer scorned

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Drastic punishment for violence

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I AM an easy going, inoffensive, live and let live type of chap, but have become increasingly alarmed at the number of vicious crimes taking place in our State.

Unless drastic punishment is introduced there warranted — punishment that hurts physically — then bashing and murder are bound to increase.

To many of the young thugs roaming in gangs a prison sentence which often appears trivial in relation to the crime, cannot appear as a deterrent. Punishment must particularly as I feel on such instances the acts result from a "dare to do" attitude when a bunch of youngsters are together.

I am reminded of a personal experience a couple of years ago. My elderly wife and myself had left the CWA building in Elizabeth St around 10 after a meeting and were walking up the Mall to Lane to pick up a taxi at Murray St. As we turned into the lane three fellows around 18-20 years of age, who were a little elevated and feeling around, let us pass. Then one started to walk behind us mimicking the older person's walk.

As I thought I took no notice I would imagine we do, for they gave every indication of trying purposely to goad me to take some action. I was most worried for my wife.

Fortunately half way down the lane a policeman passed across the Liverpool St end—the boys must have seen him also—and the mimicking ceased.

The old adage "Spare the rod and spoil the child" seems applicable—as a youngster I know I would not have been game to the remembrance of getting three cracks of a long cane from the head—in my case because it had been reported I had sat down on a seat in the train when a lady had to stand up.

OLD STAGER.
Hobart.

Boasting

In view of the possibility of the introduction of corporal punishment, the following extract from a biography of Sir Robert Anderson, an eminent Victorian, and head of Scotland Yard in the 1890's, is interesting.

In reply to those who objected to punishments which they classified as degrading, although affectionate alternative to imprisonment in the case of youthful offenders, it was urged that Sir Robert's that no punishment degrading which left no permanent stigma that allows him to make his crime a subject of boasting."

Sir Robert is reported as saying: "If only offenders of this class were punished in the manner that public schoolboys are punished, and punished at once, and made to feel a genuine sense of disgrace, there would cease to be a matter of boasting."

In those who apparently have more concern for the criminal than the victim, Thomas Paine's dictum may be apposite: "He stroked the plumage, but forgot the dying bird."

LOGIA.
Lenah Valley.

Surprising

I found many of the things Mr Bingham said surprising, particularly in view of the stand he has taken on other related issues recently.

His arguments on several occasions are clearly contradictory. His stated capital punishment is a deterrent to murder and went on to infer that this might be necessary because of the increase in crimes of violence this despite the fact that he states having pick-quote his 19th century Britain proved no deterrent to crime and that among the crowd picking pockets at the spectacle of a public hanging.

It is always tempting to make facile observations on cause and effect such as stating that if crimes of violence increase following abolition of capital punishment, then it must obviously have caused an increase in such crimes. However, there is no evidence to support this view.

It has been the experience of Western society for many years that crimes of violence are on the increase; this rate of increase would appear to be no different in countries where capital punishment has abolished capital punishment with those that still retain it.

Just because I am against retrogression of capital punishment I am in no way supporting the present lax attitude of many judges about the situation, or that we should be "soft" on those who commit crimes of violence.

There are certain violent criminals, particularly those who are either psychopathic or psychotic, who will require to be permanently imprisoned for public safety.

Before Mr Bingham advocates a return to the cat-o'-nine-tails as an agent to solve the increasing crime rate, I would ask him to reconsider his attitude. Those programme into such crimes and particularly into murder in Tasmania for that period.

New Norfolk. C. H. KELLAND.

Disappointing

It is disappointing to find the new Attorney - General voicing even qualified support for hanging and flogging.

Humane efforts for the rehabilitation of prisoners comport ill with the repetition of such practices, which have been abandoned by progressive Governments throughout the world.

The abolition of capital punishment in Tasmania was the latter course and by opening arguments tries to defeat the appeal.

If the taxpayer still disagrees he can appeal in the Court. Immediately he has to put his hand in his pocket and pit his meagre resources against those of a millionaire establishment.

A legal technicality can cost him hundreds of dollars. A simple justice is rarely the issue in Court.

In defence of young people

I WOULD like to attempt to answer the rather hysterical and weakly strung argument of "Angry Old Man" and I hope that the tone throughout my letter reveals a little of the humility that the former says students should have.

Before I commence I would like to point out that I am a Christian and I am trying honestly to see both sides of the coin objectively.

It is difficult to be subjective when discussing what very dubious subject and I admire "Angry Old Man" attempt to blame the

state of affairs partially on the older generation, however I feel that he has made too strongly against students and is therefore biased.

I admittedly, some demonstrations today have lost their point. There are small groups of extremists who still adhere to the so-called "coloured glasses" they might see through the haze of drug addicts and scruffy "half-educated" hippies a majority further of sincere, well meaning students who are genuinely concerned about the "terrible" state of affairs as the bigoted "Angry Old Man," HALF-EDUCATED STUDENT.
Rosny.

Prospects for Snug district

I FELT sad after reading the letter from D. Polley questioning the future of that part of Kingborough now known as the Snug district.

My memory harked back over 60 years to the time when the late Mr Gillies nominated North-West Bay as an industrial area serviced by hydro- electric power to be generated by turbines driven by water flowing from the Great Lake.

The Carbide Works at Electrona is the only part of Mr Gillies' industrial complex which, for various reasons, has unfortunately materialised.

I believe the chief reason for the lack of industrial development in the Snug area is the fact that the whole of the Derwent estuary from the Iron Pot to Risdon is a deep water port, and the development of North-West Bay seems unnecessary to people living in the city and northern and eastern suburbs.

However, the Southern Outlet and new bridge to Bridgewater and give new Minister for roads and Works gets busy and widens the bridge, and wastes some of the blind curves on the Channel Highway, we may have a better chance.

The educational facilities in Kingborough are fairly adequate, and maybe the voluntary aid system to obtain jobs, even if they have to go elsewhere to find them is.

In spite of business stagnation in the area, in the opinion of hard valuer, land which was purchased for £10 an acre 30 years ago, is now worth $300 an acre, and is rated accordingly.

H. ALLEN.
Bellerive.

Bellerive mall

I read with interest a letter from "Ratepayer" in which my opinion is requested as to whether the proposed mall as Bellerive for the benefit of some shopkeepers does not warrant the expenditure of ratepayers' money, and with this I fully agree.

From inquiries I have learned that the Bellerive Yacht Club, a most effective and well conducted organisation, will be deprived of direct access to the water and shipping facilities for many years if the proposed mall at Bellerive will be approved by the Planning Commission.

RATEPAYER No 2.
Bellerive.

As the people of the Bosnik area of Biak Island were about to elect six representatives for the West Irian act of free choice last week, two Papuan men and a boy of 13 pushed through the crowd with banners demanding separate votes. Here they are seen being taken to Bosnik police station to be held "for their own protection". (AAP-AP photograph).

Taxpayer kept in place in valuation appeals

MAY I endorse the letter of "PL" and the many others written about the apparently arbitrary raising of valuations.

The present system of appeal to not only disheartens but is extreme, but is impossible to contest effectively unless one is a millionaire.

The taxpayer is kept in his place as follows:- fills first appeal goes back to the department that made the assessment. Enter the department's valuer. Enter the department's solicitor. Enter counsel. It takes the latter course and by specious arguments tries to defeat the appeal.

If the taxpayer still disagrees he can appeal in the Court. Immediately he has to put his hand in his pocket and pit his meagre resources against those of a millionaire establishment.

A legal technicality can cost him hundreds of dollars. A simple justice is rarely the issue in Court.

Campbell Town faces doubtful future

"THE MERCURY" on Thursday printed an item of news that must be of considerable concern to all country dwellers and, I hope, our State Government.

It was the article referring to the lay-off of "scores" at Van Diemen's Land Co. Woolen Mills through lack of logs. The article also pointed out that many mill logs were being carted from the Campbell Town area to mills in Launceston and stated that the reason, in part, for this was the difference in permit fees for logs as compared to sawn timber.

If correct, this surely is an anomalous situation. It means that we have legislation biased against country based industry and country workers. The Government must hasten to remove this anomaly.

We all know of the difficulties being experienced by many of our country towns which are either dying or stagnating through lack of employment opportunities.

At Campbell Town four sawmills operate and provide employment either directly or indirectly for a considerable percentage of the town's population.

If these mills close at least 30 families would need to leave the town to seek livelihood elsewhere and probably several of the town's retail businesses would also close. One can easily envisage the tragedy this would be to this town.

The long term picture also presents considerable cause for concern. I have been told that forests in the vicinity of Campbell Town have reserves to maintain the present level of milling for no more than 15 years.

What is the future then? Is there to be another Fingal or Strahan? Must we wait until the calamity has arrived before we attempt to provide a solution?

The answer would seem to be self-evident. Something must be done and done NOW. Surely it is reasonable and just to see that the long term needs of Campbell Town mills must be safeguarded and that, if needs be, the carriage of logs to Launceston should be restricted or stopped immediately.

I understand that there are adequate reserves of logs on the Crown lands forests to ensure a steady flow of logs for many years. But what about privately

owned forests? Should not there be the same safeguards for property in the utilisation of timber from these forests?

And one final thought. What is being done about reafforestation in this area?

Let us have some action now before it is too late!

R. L. JAMES.
Campbell Town.

US Ambassador

Mr Walter L. Rice (66) who has been appointed by President Nixon as US Ambassador to Australia to succeed Mr William Crook. (AAP-AP photograph).

Anomaly in aid to schools

I AM not an advocate for State aid to independent schools. However, now that the Government has introduced a bill to pay subsidies to these schools, I feel I must draw attention to a gross anomaly in the proposed system.

Basically each school will receive a flat payment which, for matriculation students, is to be $50. The anomaly is that this payment has no regard to the efficiency, financially with which the school is conducted.

Let us take for example one school charging $100 a year as fees for matriculation students, whilst another charges $600. A subsidy of $50 is the first school represents an increase in its revenue of 24 pc while in the case of the latter it is only 8 pc.

Surely the principle of paying a grant that assists the efficient is good but to me that Legislative Council considered an amendment to alter the subsidy to a flat percentage of fees received in the last full school year.

CONCERNED PARENT.
New Town.

With thanks to B. W. Ross, many parents of State schools will be interested to learn that private schools cater for a mere 36 pc of our school children and not 40 pc.

We are well aware that the "collapse" of our church schools would like to know what is happening to our pets.

In six weeks time I have seen no sign of wild life let alone a hare.

Now we have a new Premier let us see what can be done to help us in the South.

DISGUSTED.
Strathgordon.

Strathgordon pets

Hurrah in the 13-year-old who held up Vifa at Strathgordon. There are more families here who would like to know what is happening to our pets.

In six weeks time I have seen no sign of wild life let alone a hare.

Now we have a new Premier let us see what can be done to help us in the South.

DISGUSTED.
Strathgordon.

agreement saves wheat price pact

CANBERRA. — Australia has prevented the collapse of the International Minimum Price Agreement for wheat, by agreeing to forego some of its export market opportunities.

The Australian move was announced last night by the Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr McEwen). After two days of negotiations with the Wheat Price Agreement countries, Australia will accept a reduction in the minimum price for wheat exports.

Mr McEwen sought the meeting after proposals by the United States that the agreement should be suspended because of price differences between countries.

In a statement issued in Canberra, Mr McEwen said that at the meeting, which was also attended by representatives of the International Grains Agreement, which are not members of the International Grains Agreement, there were substantial quantities of wheat for sale at the moment.

Not bound

"These countries are not bound by the minimum prices of the agreement.

"It was these factors which produced the situation in which we could not accept the existing provisions of the IGA.

"As it was Australia which asked for the Ministerial meeting, it was to be expected that Australia would be prepared to meet with some specific proposals, and this I did.

"The Wheat Board agreed that as a concrete proposal to preserve the agreement and alleviate the situation, it would be prepared to accept that Australia's share of the market, should abate somewhat in competitive activity in the interests of the whole trade, but not more than its public sector.

"I have no doubt it was this gesture by Australia, which was regarded as constructive and generous by the meeting, which enabled the meeting to reach agreement on the immediate conservation on what could be done constructively to help the situation."

Mr McEwen said Australia's offer was conditional upon any other countries' agreeing to maintain a normal share of the market, setting similarly to be reconsidered in rough country and abate its competition.

Observers say this was aimed at France.

The European Common Market countries, including France, were not represented by a Minister at the talks, and their delegation made it clear they had no power to commit the countries concerned.

They said the matter would be considered by EEC Ministers next week.

Safeguard

Mr McEwen said the meeting also agreed that the parties to the Wheat Agreement were free to offer wheat at prices ruling in their own markets, even with those offered by non-agreement countries.

To do otherwise would be merely to preserve an open market for non-agreement exporters," he said.

It was agreed that to the extent that it may be necessary for wheat to be offered at lower than minimum prices as soon as circumstances permitted.

Mr McEwen said he had reminded the meeting that a food aid programme under the International Grains Agreement, in which all the affluent nations had agreed to supply the funds for the annual purchase of 4,500,000 tons of food grains, was due to be newly negotiated.

He had pointed out that the advantages of the grains agreement to producers were to disappear it would probably be expected that the food aid provisions would survive.

Diggers die in attack

CANBERRA. — Two soldiers of the Ninth Battalion were killed and another wounded in action against an enemy bunker system in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, on Saturday.

Army headquarters said those killed were Lt Bruno Adam Josef Allaszczyk (22), married, of Mosman, and Pte Beresford Peter Hanna (20), married, of St Marys (NSW).

Capt Desmond Stanley Cochrane (24), unmarried, of Virginia, Brisbane, received fragments of mortar bomb in his left leg. His condition at Vung Tau field hospital.

Army headquarters reported that Pte Raymond John Reuland (20), single, of Alice Springs, was also seriously wounded when an armoured personnel carrier hit a mine in Phuoc Tuy Province on Friday.

He received a blast injury and multiple fragment wounds, and was reported to be very seriously ill.

Gear "sees" through thick smoke

CANBERRA. — Australian-designed equipment which allows fire-spotters to "see" through dense smoke will be displayed at a bush fire research conference in Canberra this week.

The Minister for National Development (Mr Fairbairn) said last night that the equipment was developed by the Division of Mineral Physics and could be used by fire controllers in bushfire areas.

"Information on the rate and direction of spread of fire control organisation following severe fires in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria during the 1968-69 fire season," he said.

Main items for discussion will include knowledge of fire behaviour for operational and tactical planning, fire weather forecasting, survival techniques, and the economic effect of rural fires on the community.

Plane —35

KATMANDU. — DC-3 Dakota, wit has crashed nea Nepal.

Official reports say t is little chance of surv lives.

A helicopter yeste spotted the wreckage o twin-engined aircraft on plank, 13 miles no of Kimasth.

Local villagers said t aircraft caught fire in fl before it hit town pl hilly area.

The aircraft was ca ing 21 Indian and Nepa passengers — Indi three infants — and Nepalese crew of four.

It was on a sched 45-minute flight Katmandu to the Nepa

Police seize marihuana

BRISBANE. — De tives raided a flat at man Park yesterday, confiscated 3 large quantity of marihuana.

They detained a 25-yr old schoolteacher and charged him with illegal possession of a gross drug.

He will appear in Brisbane City Magistrates Court this morning.

Dennis The Menace

Indians fired on by Chinese

NEW DELHI. — The Indian Defence Ministry confirmed yesterday that Chinese troops fired on an Indian patrol in the Ladakh Pass area, near the Indo-Tibet-Nepal frontier, on April 10.

There were no Indian casualties and the fire was not returned, a spokesman said.—AAP.

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